

REMARKS

The Office Action rejects claims 1-29.

Applicants cancel claims 4 and 19 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 26 are amended to include the features of claim 4. In addition, claims 18 and 28 are amended to incorporate the features of claim 19. Claim 5 is amended to depend from claim 1 and claim 20 is amended to depend from claim 18.

Because the features of claim 4 are incorporated into claim 1 and the features of claim 19 are incorporated into claim 18, claim 1 now has the same scope as original claim 4 and claim 18 now has the same scope as original claim 19.

Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 5-18, and 20-29 are pending. The Office Action's rejections are traversed below and reconsideration of all claims is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,966,557 issued to Wada in view of U.S. Patent 6,047,144 issued to Sasai et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Sasai"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that Wada and Sasai taken separately or in combination do not disclose, teach or suggest at least, "the printing medium of the...resistance value is transferred to a duplex printing path in response to the printing medium tray changing from an open state to a closed state," as recited in independent claims 1 and 26.

Instead, Wada discloses an image stabilizing control performed when the operation of the image flowing apparatus is restored after it was suspended due to a paper jam (column 5, line 50 to column 6, line 22). Wada does not disclose, teach or suggest "the printing medium... transferred to a duplex printing path in response to the printing medium tray changing from an open state to a closed state," as recited in independent claims 1 and 26. In its restoration process, Wada does not take into account a printing medium tray changing from an open state to a closed state due to a printing medium being transferred to a duplex printing path.

Moreover, Sasai does not cure the deficiencies of Wada. Instead, Sasai only discloses a transfer voltage generating circuit 31, which transfers voltage to a transfer roller 25 based on a value set by a control unit 30. The control unit 30 sets this value based on information from a sensor 35 for detecting temperature and/or humidity in an image forming device. Sasai does not disclose, teach or suggest at least, "the printing medium... transferred to a duplex printing path in response to the printing medium tray changing from an open state to a closed state," as

recited in independent claims 1 and 26.

Wada and Sasai taken separately or in combination do not even refer to a duplex printing path associated with a printing medium tray changing from an open state to a closed state. Therefore, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 26 patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Claims 2, 3 and 5-17 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and include all of the features of that claim, plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, for at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 3 and 5-17 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Claim 27 depends from claim 26 and includes all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 27 also patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

Similar to above, Wada and Sasai taken separately or in combination do not disclose, teach or suggest at least, "transferring the printing medium of the...resistance value to a duplex printing path in response to the printing medium tray changing from...open state to...closed state," as recited in independent claims 18 and 28.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 18 and 28 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Claims 20-25 depend directly or indirectly from claim 18 and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, for at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 20-25 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Claim 29 depends from claim 28 and includes all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, for at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 29 also patentably distinguishes over the cited references. Therefore, for at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 29 also patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

Summary

Claims 1, 2, 5-18, and 20-29 are pending. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references taken alone or in combination discloses the present claimed invention.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: Feb. 1, 2005

By: 

Gene M. Garner, II
Registration No. 34,172

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501